

DDC's Joint Team Leader, COL Bernard P. LeVan, USAR, Retires

By Jessica Walter-Groft, DDC Command Affairs



LeVan and his wife, Nora, are congratulated by DDC personnel following the retirement ceremony.

During a September ceremony hosted by Defense Distribution Center (DDC) Commander COL (P) Michael J. Lally, USA, COL Bernard P. LeVan, USAR, was retired.

COL (P) Lally recounted COL LeVan's numerous accomplishments during more than 30 years of both active and reserve service including his stint as a battalion commander of the 1678th Logistics Support Battalion in Uniontown, PA; Army reserve team leader for DDC; and the DDC Joint Team Leader from 2000 to 2004.

"COL LeVan's efforts will have a positive impact on reserve support to DDC and our 25 distribution centers worldwide for many years to come," said COL (P) Lally.

As family, friends and co-workers watched, COL LeVan was presented with several awards in recognition of his leadership, devotion to duty, commitment to the Warfighter as well as his support of Operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom

and Iraqi Freedom. In addition to letters from the President of the United States, the Chief of the United States Army Reserve and the Director of the Defense

Logistics Agency, COL LeVan received the Legion of Merit, the bronze Order of the deFleury medal and a flag flown over the capitol on July 26, 2004, at the request of the DLA Joint Reserve Forces Office.

LeVan will continue his career in a civil service position as a logistics management specialist at DLA headquarters in Ft. Belvoir, VA.

A Quick Q & A with DDC's Newest Arrival from Across the Pond

Since the beginning of the Foreign Exchange Officer Program, the Defense Distribution Center (DDC) has been very fortunate to share knowledge with many outstanding officers from Canada, Australia and England.

Lt Col Andrew Nixon, an officer of the British Army's Royal Logistic Corps, is DDC's new British Exchange Officer. During his two-year tour, he will work with the DDC Logistics Operations Transition Team to coordinate transitions at distribution centers after A-76 competitions.

DDC REVIEW: How does your background make you a good match for your current position at DDC?

LT COL NIXON: My service as an officer in the British Army's Royal Logistic Corps has included tours in two of the U.K.'s major distribution depots and I have worked in the Army's personnel management headquarters. I think this gives me a good understanding of the operational issues

and, very importantly, the human resource issues involved in change.

DDC REVIEW: What do you enjoy about DDC?

LT COL NIXON: The best thing about working at DDC has been the people. Everywhere I go I have been made to feel very welcome. I have also been amazed at the level of patience as I stumble my way through US acronyms and ask yet another question.

DDC REVIEW: In your opinion, what is the benefit of the exchange officer program?

LT COL NIXON: The exchange program has a number of significant benefits: Our countries are close allies but we need to build on that relationship by developing real confidence and trust at the personal level. The exchange program gives us that opportunity. Furthermore, though our armed forces differ enormously in size, many of our challenges are very similar. The exchange program gives me the opportunity to draw on U.S. methods and experience and hopefully share some lessons learned in the U.K.

DDC REVIEW: Did you spend much time in the U.S. previously?

LT COL NIXON: I served as a Liaison Officer in the U.S.A. for six months in the mid-1990s. I was working on the planning staff of a major U.K./U.S. exercise which took place in North Carolina.

DDC REVIEW: What do you find most intriguing about the U.S.?

LT COL NIXON: As somebody who has mostly experienced America through books and the media, it is fascinating to be able to visit places and compare the reality with the images I have grown up with. So far, I have not been disappointed!

DDC REVIEW: What do you like to do when you're not at work?

